

NOVEMBER 2025



Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

Surrounded by Saints

The book of Revelation offers a breathtaking vision: a multitude robed in white, gathered before God's throne. These are the ones who have "come out of the great ordeal," those who endured hardship yet remained faithful. Now, sheltered by the Lamb who is also their Shepherd, they hunger and thirst no more. "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

That image is a balm and a promise. It is also a reminder of the countless saints — known and unknown — who have held fast to faith through suffering and struggle. Some we can name: Mother Teresa, Sojourner Truth, St. Stephen, Mother Mary. Many more are known only to God. They are people who stood up when standing up cost them something, who spoke out against injustice, who kept loving in the face of hatred, who worked for peace even when peace seemed impossible.

But the communion of saints is not made up only of those whose names appear in history books or scripture. Saints are also those who quietly persevere. They do the hard thing for a loved one caught in the snares of addiction, sacrifice much of their own lives to care for ill partners, children, or parents, deliver meals, visit the sick and lonely, share words of love and comfort with those who truly need it, offer healing hands and prayers to the suffering, are on-call to fix things for those who need help, and a myriad other acts of loving service.

Some have suffered debilitating illness, persevering with grace and good humor. Some have persevered with dignity and strength in the midst of poverty and neglect. Some saints have spent their lives in prayer. Some saints have prayerfully and lovingly shared not only their lives but their resources, making sacrificial gifts to further God's kin-dom of peace and love on earth.



To celebrate All Saints is to give thanks for those who have gone before us and those who journey beside us now — living testimonies to God's love and grace. And it's to remember that sainthood isn't about perfection or fame. It's about faithfulness. Each of us is called to embody love, courage, and hope in the ordinary circumstances of our lives.

So, take heart. You are surrounded by saints — past, present, and perhaps even sitting beside you in the pew or at the game or in the restaurant. And in all that you face, the Lamb who is our Shepherd guides you, sustains you, and will one day wipe away every tear.

Giving thanks for all the saints,
ginger+

Perceiving the Celestial through Music

ROLLIN H. MARQUIS

One of my mother's favorite hymns was a setting of the 23rd Psalm we call *Brother James' Air*. In my senior year of high school, our choir sang the lovely arrangement by Gordon Jacob. I purloined five copies, brought them home, and my family sang the piece in our living room: my brother, baritone; my father and I, tenor; my mother, alto; and my sister, soprano.

I would pay a king's ransom to bask in that melding of voices again! But even just hearing the hymn sung by others is instant revelation, for sound like scent can transport us in time. Music is one of the few things in life that can paradoxically bind us to one another and, simultaneously, take us out of ourselves to discern things supernal. These are transcendent moments.

Given that music can so powerfully awaken memory, it is small wonder that the music of All Saints Day can move us especially in a service in which the recollection of those who have died is the focus. All Saints Day celebrates the good, the kind; those who loved and healed and built. They were not perfect beings, but they were being perfected. And the service reminds us of two promises:

First, that those no longer physically with us still live, though in another realm. We can only speculate what form they take there, but it is pleasant to think that we may someday be reunited with them. Their transfiguration illuminates the second promise: if they have risen, so can and shall we.

It is fairly easy to think of our departed friends and relatives as now being saints, but All Saints Day and its music invite us to remember that, to paraphrase the Quaker George Fox, "There is that of God in everyone." In other words, we are all saints, or saints-in-waiting. Here, I turn to the verse of Lesbia Scott in *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*: "They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still. The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will."

And All Saints Day reminds us of one more comforting thought: we will not be wholly forgotten. As you can read in Ecclesiastes 44: 9, 14-15: "And some there be which have no memorial; who are perished as though they had never been....Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore. The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise."

So come and sing on this day of remembrance when we are moved to smile through our tears.

Rollin and his wife Susan came to Foundry in 2007, as a paid leaders/soloists in the Foundry Choirs, where they immediately felt at home. Because of Foundry values which felt right for their children, then 7 and 5, they made Foundry their church home.

Fairly Traded Christmas Gifts

Who doesn't welcome a holiday gift of a delicious chocolate bar or the smell of freshly brewed coffee – especially when those treats come from a source that compensates the producers at fair prices?

As in many years past, there will be sales at Foundry in Community Commons of fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, dried fruits, and olive oil during this Advent season — a longstanding mission effort started by the former Peace and Justice Mission. Featured products come from Equal Exchange, a cooperative that works directly with small farmers' groups to ensure the farmers get a fair price for their products and that the products are of high quality.

Equal Exchange recognized Foundry recently as one of 100 top congregations purchasing fairly traded products in 2024. Let's keep that record going!

Sales will be in the Commons following worship services on Sundays November 23 and 30, December 7 and 14.

If you would like to purchase a large quantity of some items, including other products on the EE website (<https://shop.equalexchange.coop>), please let Margie McKelvey or Chris Matthews know by November 23 so that we can special order those for you.

2025 Advent Greens and Poinsettia Dedications

Enhance the beauty of our Foundry sanctuary and support the Worship and Music ministries during this holy season by purchasing Advent greenery and poinsettias! Purchases may be made in honor or in memory of a loved one. **Poinsettias will be available for pickup following our 8 p.m. Christmas Eve celebration or our 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 28.** Register at foundryumc.org/poinsettias

Foundry Forward

NOVEMBER 2025 ACTION ITEMS

Saturday, November 1

Draw the Circle Wider

If you are a current – or potential – leader of a class, small group or other small communities within Foundry, join us today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Room 203 for a shared meal and facilitated conversation designed to inspire and support your ministry. Register at foundryumc.org/circle-wider

Contemplative Retreat

We have a wonderful opportunity to ground ourselves in sacred community as we prepare to enter the holiday season. This half-day retreat at Foundry from 1 to 4 pm this afternoon will include centering prayer, meditation, journaling, and more. Register at foundryumc.org/contemplative-retreat

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK TONIGHT! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS AT 2 A.M. SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday, November 2

All Saints Sunday

Today we gather to remember the saints of our church community at both the 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. worship services. Preacher Ginger Gaines-Cirelli will preach, using texts from Ephesians 1:11-23 and Luke 6:20-31. These services will feature the music of Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, intertwined with scripture, spoken word, prayers and Holy Communion. Foundry's Choir, soloists and chamber orchestra of strings, trumpets and harp, will be joined by guest organist Eric Plutz, performing the Duruflé score which was especially composed for organ and choir. Foundry's Cassavant pipe organ will sing with the saints!

Painting with Ashes.

Today you are invited to begin a six-week exploration of **Painting with Ashes** by Rev. Michael Beck — a powerful story of how God transforms pain into purpose. Come discover how God can turn your ashes into art. This class starts today through December 7 in room B2 at 10:10 a.m.

Register at foundryumc.org/painting-with-ashes

Monday, November 3

New LGBTQ+ Small Group

All are invited to join the LGBTQ+ and Allies covenant discipleship group organized by Noah Nieting. The small group will begin meeting Mondays online at 6 p.m. starting November 3. If interested, please reach out to jbrown@foundryumc.org

Sunday, November 9

The Science of... Forgiveness?

What? A connection between science and forgiveness? Pastor Ginger's sermon explores possible answers. While the desire for revenge is strong in our culture, our sacred texts preach forgiveness, and neuroscience seems to show that forgiveness has a direct, pain-relieving impact on us. Come and learn more – at worship today at 9 o'clock and 11:15.

Foundations for Sacred Resistance

Explore the Biblical roots of sacred resistance with Ben Roberts and members of the Sacred Resistance team today over lunch at 12:30. Join us in Room 203 as we explore the biblical roots of sacred resistance. Register at foundryumc.org/biblical-roots

Sunday, November 16

Us vs. Them?

Christians are told, both in sacred scripture and contemporary comment, that we should not judge each other. Today it is a very difficult instruction to follow, but it is clearly a central precept of our faith. Pastor Ginger preaches on this tension – and how we should work to resolve it in favor of forgiveness. Her texts are Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Workshop on Aging

Join The Care Team and Stephen Ministry as we consider the challenges of aging. Recognizing that many of us are on that journey or have loved ones who need assistance, this workshop is a first step in providing resources to address these challenges. Join us at 12:30 p.m. in Room 203. We will cover a variety of topics both for aging individuals and those caring for them. Register at foundryumc.org/workshop-aging

Sunday, November 23

A Healthy Habit

Gratitude – giving thanks – is more than a reaction – it's a habit that transforms ordinary life into worship.

It's a wonderful topic this Sunday before Thanksgiving, and Pastor Ginger uses as her texts Psalm 100 and Luke 17: 11–19.

Fair Trade Gift Sale Starts Today!

Starting today and each Sunday until December 14, you can buy fair trade products from Equal Exchange at coffee hour! Gifts include chocolate, tea, coffee, dried fruit, and olive oil (check or cash PLEASE!).

To print a copy of this issue of the Forge, go to foundryumc.org/forge.

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day!

Sunday, November 30

Fear Not!

Advent begins today and Pastor Ginger will preach the first sermon in the Advent and Christmas season series, "Fear Not: Good News for a Weary World." Her texts are Isaiah 2:1–5 and Luke 1:5–25. And during coffee hour, you can buy fair trade chocolate, tea, coffee, dried fruit and olive oil for Christmas gifts.

Share your thoughts and ideas by emailing ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org.